

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release:
Thursday October 21, 2009

Contact: Crystal Paulk-Buchanan
(404) 631-1835

Douglas County

Georgia DOT Announces Work Beginning on New SR 166 Bridge Over Anneewakee Creek

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded the contract to replace a Douglas County bridge irreparably damaged during the September floods to Archer Western Contractors of Atlanta. The Department met with the contractor and utility companies Tuesday stressing the importance of opening State Route 166 bridge Over Anneewakee Creek as soon as possible.

The \$1.4 million project will be fully funded through the Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief funds and must be completed by March 23, 2010.

"State Route 166 is a critical route and one of the few east-west alternatives to I-20," said Metro Atlanta Construction Engineer Mickey McGee. "Many people are driving miles out of their way to drop their kids off at school and get to work."

McGee said it is fortunate that only one utility is located on the two-lane bridge. Austell Gas Company has a temporary gas line which will be relocated within the week, enabling Archer Western's crews to begin dismantling the old bridge.

The new bridge was designed by Georgia DOT engineers to withstand the type of flood defining event which occurred in September. When completed, the new bridge will be longer than the original bridge – 240 feet compared to 180 feet to accommodate erosion from the flood. The bridge's height will remain 25 feet above the creek. The new bridge will be slightly wider, about five feet on each side.

Georgia DOT closed the bridge Monday September 21 when waters from the creek rushed into the beams of the bridge and washed away part of the roadway approach. After the waters receded, Georgia DOT and federal highway inspectors determined the approach slabs had been undermined and the bridge must be replaced.

Additionally the Department expects to award contracts Friday for replacement of three other bridges damaged during the flood: Peachtree-Dunwoody Road over Nancy Creek and Riverside Drive across Marsh Creek, both in Sandy Springs, and on Redan Road over Barbashela Creek in DeKalb County.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about flood-related road and bridge closures, or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).